

News Letter

TELFORD AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

www.TDARS.org.uk

FOUNDED 1969

www.TelfordHamfest.co.uk

Issue 262

Mar / Apr 2014

www.TDARS.org.uk

Programme

www.telfordhamfest.co.uk

- March 19 TDARS Portable & Contesting ambitions and plans 2014
- March 26 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 8pm. Agenda page 3
- March 30 (Sunday) **GX6ZME/P Lightweight—QRP . Mitchell's Fold Stone Circle, SW Shrops.**
- April 2 Committee Meeting (new committee) and GX3ZME On-the-Air 7:30 start
- April 9 International Marconi Day (Tywyn) GB8MD Preparations
- April 16 Testing the Club Winter Projects. Bring them along !
- April 23 Ten Minute Topics—audience participation, please.
- April 26-28 (Fri-Sunday) **International Marconi Day at Tywyn—GB8MD**
- April 30 1st. 2 metre DF competition. Bring 2m H/H and use the TDARS flexiyagis.7:30pm
- May 7 Committee Meeting and GX3ZME On-the-Air HF/VHF/UHF
- May 10-11 (weekend) **GX3ZME on LW Village Field. Antenna Tests, incl. new 6m LFA giant!**
- May 14 Surplus Sale. Usual 10% to club funds.
- May 21 Come and use the Test Equipment. Check your own multimeter's accuracy!
- May 28 2nd.2 metre DF competition. Bring 2m H/H and use the TDARS flexiyagis.7:30pm
- June 4 First-in-the-Month GX3ZME on-the-air + Committee Meeting (7:30pm)
- June 11 B-B-Q on the Village Field.
- June 21- 22 (weekend) **50MHz Trophy Contest—Long Mynd. Help required—G0UFE m/c**
- June 18 50 MHz Trophy Contest & VHF NFD Planning and preparation meeting

*For Amateur Radio Exam Training—enquiries to Mike G3JKX (01952 299677)
For Morse Training and Morse Proficiency Tests Martyn G3UKV or Eric M0KZB.
For Equipment Loans & Returns contact Simon 2E0CHV or Don 2E0DSN
Radio Amateur Exams- Latest: www.tdars.org.uk/html/training.html*

VILLAGE HALL, MALTHOUSE BANK, LITTLE WENLOCK, TELFORD, SHROPSHIRE. TF6 5BG

Editorial

Another AGM (45th ?) is just around the corner at the end of March. All-in-all, it has been a good year for the Society, with a broad spectrum of activities and members' involvement in them. **Highlights** for me have been the regular portable outings principally organised by Simon 'CHV and John 'JZH; winning the M&M section of VHF NFD with a change of strategy; a new printer for the newsletter; the visit to the Military Wireless Museum in Kidderminster; liaising with Ironbridge Museum Trust for two special events at 'Blitz Hill' ; an increase in attendance at our annual Telford HamFest; and finally, the G100RSGB Centenary Stations set up in a very soggy Little Wenlock field last October.

On the **downside**, I would mention the visit to Bletchley Park that never happened, the cancelled River Boat trip due to lack of support and the non-renewal of subs to TDARS by a few members who have always strongly supported the society for many years past, and whom we hope will renew in 2014-15. With the best will in the world, an all singing, all dancing programme of events almost every Wednesday of the year is a tall order for any committee. We are always looking for new ideas and visiting guest speakers—so if you have any proposals, let's hear from you. A supportive and committed paid-up membership is always adrenalin to the committee, and stimulates even better outcomes for everyone.

Finally, as Mike 'JKX' is retiring after 18 years as Hon. Sec of TDARS, I must express my thanks to Mike for all the hard, dedicated work he has put into his committee role, much of which goes un-noticed by the membership, but keeps the vital wheels turning. I'm sure more will be said at the AGM, when we hope a successor will be appointed.

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TELFORD & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN: Derek Southey G0EYX (01785 604904)

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Martyn Vincent (01952 255416)

SECRETARY: Mike Street G3JKX (01952 299677)

TREASURER: Jim Wakenell G8UGL (01952 684173)

CURATOR : Simon 2E0CHV (01588 673974) (note new number)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Martyn Vincent G3UKV (01952 255416)

PUBLICITY : Dave GOCER (01630 638699 or 07971 416940, leave msg)

Committee: Richard G0VXG; Simon G0UFE; Eric M0KZB; Martin 2E0TRO; John M0JZH; Brian G6UDX;

Trophies/Certs: G3UKV; QSL Manager Paul M0PNN; Assist. Curator: Don 2E0DSN

CURRENT LOCAL NETS Morse Practice: Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays around 8pm, usually 144.600 MHz. Thursdays—3605KHz at 9am—GB2CW morse transmission followed by ‘call-ins’.

80m Mondays, Fridays 3657 KHz— net from 8:45am (open to anyone, not just tders)

4 metres: Mondays 70.450 MHz FM from 7pm. QSY to 70.425 MHz, or nearby channel.

Qtc: News & Information



TDARS MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY AT LITTLE WENLOCK VILLAGE HALL UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE ON THE FRONT PAGE PROGRAMME. ROOM BOOKED FROM 7PM - 10PM. MEETINGS USUALLY COMMENCE AT 8PM

Please note: A current membership card must be shown to borrow TDARS equipment. Please return borrowed equipment promptly .

The **TDARS AGM** takes place on **WEDNESDAY 26 MARCH** at 8pm. **AGENDA** :-

- 1) Apologies
- 2) Minutes of AGM held 27 March 2013, and Matters Arising
- 3) Chairman's Report
- 4) Treasurer's Report & presentation of accounts. 2014/15 subscription rates
- 5) Appointment of Auditors 2014/15
- 6) Election of Society Officers and committee
- 7) Major purchase of equipment proposal (Elecraft KPA500 HF & 6m amplifier)
- 8) Presentation of Awards and Trophies

Note: The committee has recommended no increase in subscriptions for the coming year.

From Simon 2E0CHV and John M0JZH: GX6ZME/P:

Sunday 30th March: Lightweight QRP Portable at Mitchells Fold Stone Circle.

Saturday 26th April: International Marconi Day at Tywyn. Setting up on Friday 25th and packing up the station on 27th.

10th - 11th May: VHF weekend (proposed for Little Wenlock playing field, TBC).

A chance to try the new monster 6m lfa beam in readiness for 50mhz Trophy and a chance to play on all the VHF bands.

21st - 22nd June: 50mhz Trophy (G0UFE i/c)

5th - 6th July VHF NFD (G3UKV i/c).

Sunday 3rd August: 432mhz Low Power Contest.

18th - 19th October: Jamboree on the Air at Wellington Scout Group.

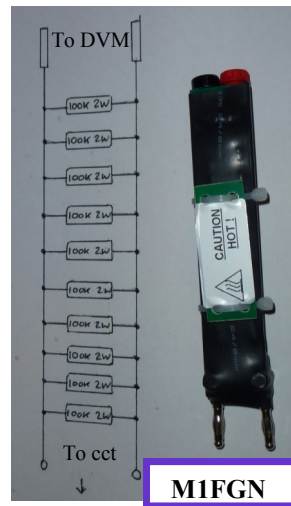
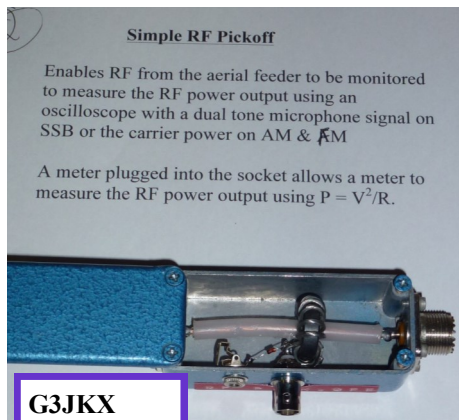
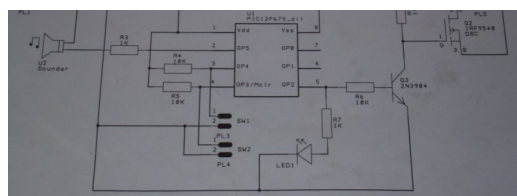
Sunday 16th November: Shrewsbury Battlefield TBC

Sunday 7th December: Portable at the Bog.

"We do hope that many of you will get involved, or visit us on these dates—and once again help us to enjoy portable operations!"



The **"Under a Fiver" Construction Competition** took place in February. Rather disappointingly there were only 4 entries this time, but quality made up for the lack of quantity. Richard's 'VXG PIC controlled battery charger won the day, followed by Mike's ('JKX') RF 'Pickoff' unit, Peter's (M1FGN) high voltage load with HT simulator attachment, and finally two wideband noise-diode generator kits for VHF and microwave receiver sensitivity checks by Martyn ('UKV'). The Trophy will be presented at the AGM as usual. (All photos M0TOY)



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A man with short brown hair and a beard is standing in a garden. He is wearing a blue crewneck sweater over a dark collared shirt, khaki cargo shorts, and brown leather shoes. He is smiling at the camera. The background consists of dense green foliage and a wooden fence. The ground is grassy with some muddy patches.

Nice one,
Rob.

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# 10 K Ohm 400 volt, 20 watt HT load by Peter M1FGN

[ plus simulated HT battery supply ]

## 10K Ohm 400V 20W HT LOAD

This project is a 10K Ohm 400V 20W H.T. load.

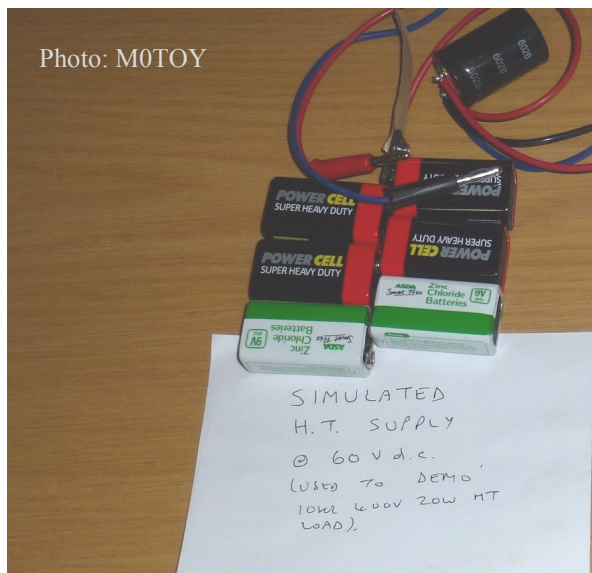
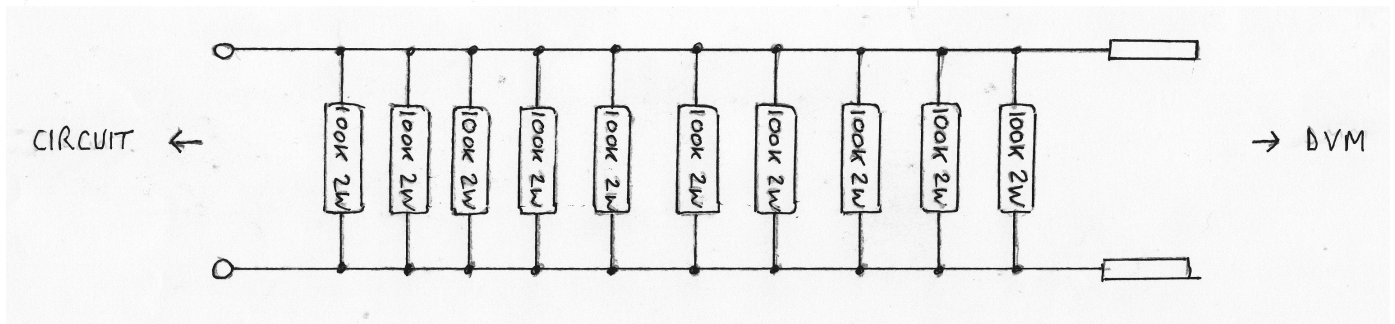
When working on H.T. supply rails, sometimes it is necessary to load the H.T. rail to ensure it does not collapse under load.

The purpose is two-fold:-

1. Sometimes an H.T. or other supply can easily supply full volts into a test DVM but fool you by dropping off when a load is connected.
2. Also an H.T. supply with no load will store a considerable amount of charge unless discharged by for example this load.

This load consists of 10 x 100k ohm 2W resistors in parallel (see circuit sheet) mounted on a small board with plugs and sockets spaced to fit a 'standard' DMM voltage range sockets. The completed unit is covered in heat-shrink sleeve and labelled with 'heat warning signs' ...16 to 20W of power is quite a bit of heat to grab hold of if the load is used to its maximum rating even when covered with heat-shrink sleeve.

Shows use of point to point wiring without printed circuit track and use of heat-shrink sleeve



The simulated HT battery supply unit, using 6 X PP3 batteries + Capacitor to demonstrate use of Peter's HT load project at the 'Under a Fiver' construction competition.

## Four Metre (70 mhz) Report by Simon 2E0CHV

However things are starting to move forward, particularly when it comes to FM operation. Ex PMR sets on low band FM have been sourced, and Don 2E0DSN has purchased a lovely Anytone5189 70 Mhz transceiver. Folks have also been making simple dipoles and hanging them from house guttering or finding other ingenious ways to get their antennas as high as they possibly can.

With more of us finally becoming equipped for the band, we attempted our first 4 metre net on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March with five of us joining in. However after deciding that a Monday would be a better evening, on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm I started calling "CQ Telford Net". We had a really enjoyable hour with 12 people calling into the net, including the following club members: Rob M0TOY/M, Norman G0ASP, John M0JZH, Don 2E0DSN, Dave G8VZT, Martyn G3UKV and me 2E0CHV.

Anyone 5189 FM rig

A black mobile radio unit with a microphone and a numeric keypad. The unit has a digital display showing "51.89" and "FM". The microphone has a numeric keypad with buttons for numbers 1-9, 0, \*, and #. The unit has a "PUSH TO TALK" button and a "VOLUME" knob. The unit is labeled "5189 FM" on the right side.

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## Forthcoming Portable Operations by Simon 2E0CHV

I would just like to remind you of our next couple of portable events:

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April:** International Marconi Day at Tywyn. Setting up on Friday 25<sup>th</sup>, and packing up on the 27<sup>th</sup>. (GB8MD all day Saturday—Ed)

**6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> September: RSGB HF SSB Field Day.** We are hoping to enter the restricted section of this 24 hour event and Peter 2E0ZSU has kindly offered us his field, which makes a near perfect venue !

**April 2013**



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## The 2014 TDARS Construction Competition

There were 8 entries this time for the annual Construction Competition, although once again no Beginners' Entries—so that trophy will continue to collect dust in the attic storage area for another 12 months.

***Each entrant once again said a few (or a lot) of words about their home brew creation.***

We started with **Simon GOUFE's** portable vertical antenna which covers 6 HF bands. The design came from an old antenna handbook, and is easy to erect and gives good results on each band. Depending on what is already to hand, the max. cost was £40—good value.

**Norman G0ASP** presented a 'Z' match antenna tuner for the HF bands, which was a development of an earlier QRP model. Using surplus parts, the cost was kept low, and will do the same job as an expensive commercial tuner. ie—match your antenna to your rig.

The third entry was ***Martyn's, G3UKV*** with a broadband V/UHF pre-amp, using the PGA103+ MMIC device. The original device died before power was even applied (static, presumably), but its replacement works perfectly. It is intended to use this pre-amp on 70cm VHF NFD, with a suitable band-pass filter in front of it at masthead level.

**Brian G6UDX** brought along two items—a wall antenna bracket, cast in aluminium from home-made patterns which cost about £10 to make, and will never rust! And secondly another bracket, this time to attach an antenna to his Grand Vitara vehicle's roof bar, for mobile use.

At the high-tech end of construction was **Richard G0VXG's** updated HF beacon, which will be installed at his Menorcan villa on 14 MHz. Using Arduino chip technology, it features RTTY, CW and WSPR capability, plus other info such as temperature, pressure or whatever else he can dream up !

**Peter M1FGN's** entry was at the other end of the scale—in fact, pure ‘retro’ from 1963. A neatly built “compact radio tuner” from an old Radio Constructor magazine article, covering from 150 kHz to 30 MHz, using valves (ECC83, EF80, ECH81), with an IF of 465 kHz.. Peter described it as an ‘austerity special’ as the case was made of hardboard covered in fablon!

Finally **Dave, G8VZT** described his Mk2 solid-state 4 metre P.A., capable of about 170 watts o/p with a very low drive level required. Dave has built several of these 'PA blocks', but this was his best yet ! 50+% efficiency (cool heatsink) requiring just a few amps at 50 VDC.

***After the entries had all been described, votes were cast and counted. The winner was Dave G8VZT with his PA, 2nd was Richard G0VXG's beacon project and in third place was Norman G0ASP and his antenna matching unit. Well done all entrants. Keep those soldering irons hot !***

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**Thanks for Newsletter input this time from Simon
2E0CHV, Rob M0TOY, Peter M1FGN.
Next edition mid May. More items PLEASE !**